Hospital upheaval: A look at the shifting landscape of hospital affiliations, purchases and mergers in central Pa.

The corporate raiders on Wall Street would have a hard time keeping up with some of the wheeling, dealing and mergers and acquisitions being bandied about among central Pennsylvania hospitals of late.

The latest game-changing news has Holy Spirit Hospital in talks to explore a possible affiliation with Geisinger Health System. But this is by no means the only deal of its kind in the works.

Here’s a brief history of the hospital upheaval that seems to be sweeping and unsettling the care-giving institutions in our area:

After 124 years, Good Samaritan Hospital decides it can no longer stand alone:

The Lebanon-based facility has said it will pursue a “partnership” its board believes is needed to sustain the 172-bed hospital in a health care landscape that is rapidly shifting in favor of larger systems. It said it hopes to announce an agreement before the end of the year. Since then, York-based WellSpan Health expressed interest in exploring a deal with Good Samaritan.

Three central Pennsylvania hospitals will become part of the nation's second-largest hospital chain:

Community Health Systems said it will buy Health Management Associates for about $7.6 billion. Florida-based HMA owns or manages 71 hospitals, including Carlisle Regional Medical Center in Cumberland County and Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center and Lancaster Regional Medical Center in Lancaster County. After the sale, Tennessee-based Community Health Systems will own or operate 206 hospitals in 29 states.

PinnacleHealth System explores possible partnership with J.C. Blair Health System:

Harrisburg-based PinnacleHealth announced the negotiations and said they began on May 17. But PinnacleHealth spokeswoman Christina Persson said it was too early to discuss the possible outcomes of the negotiations, and whether they include acquisition or merger.

J.C. Blair is much smaller than PinnacleHealth. It’s centered around J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital, which last year celebrated its 100th anniversary. Blair is located about 95 miles northwest of Harrisburg in Huntingdon County.

In the fiscal year ending in 2012, Blair had net patient revenue of $39 million; PinnacleHealth had net patient revenue of $681 million, according to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council.